

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

HOLD FOR S/S TEAM, PASS TO SECRETARY

HERewith GEORGE SHERMAN BY-LINER WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS
JANUARY 11 HEADED "U.S. AIMS ICBMS AT SOVIET BASES"

THE UNITED STATES HAS MODIFIED ITS NUCLEAR STRATEGY IN
AN EFFORT TO COUNTERACT THE CONTINUING SOVIET DRIVE FOR
NUCLEAR SUPERIORITY, ACCORDING TO DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES
R. SCHLESINGER.

SCHLESINGER ANNOUNCED FOR THE FIRST TIME YESTERDAY
THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BEGUN RETARGETING SOME OF ITS
STRATEGIC MISSILES SO THAT THEY CAN STRIKE SOVIET MILITARY
INSTALLATIONS AS WELL AS CITIES.

NO LONGER WILL THE SOLE OBJECTIVE OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR
FORCES BE THE MASSIVE DESTRUCTION OF SOVIET CITIES IN
RETALIATION FOR A SOVIET NUCLEAR STRIKE AGAINST THE UNITED
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STATES, SCHLESINGER TOLD A LUNCHEON OF THE OVERSEAS WRITERS

HERE.

OFFICIALS REGARD THE CHANGE AS THE STRONGEST WARNING TO DATE TO MOSCOW THAT IT CANNOT USE THE CONTINUING DEADLOCK IN GENEVA IN THE SECOND ROUND OF STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS TO UPSET THE CURRENT NUCLEAR BALANCE BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS.

BUT THE DEFENSE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE CHANCE OF STRATEGIC FORCES BEING USED BY EITHER SIDE IS "VERY LOW, APPROACHING ZERO." HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE BALANCE BETWEEN THESE FORCES CONTINUES TO BE A CRUCIAL FACTOR IN DETERMINING POLICIES OF WAR AND PEACE EVEN WHERE CONVENTIONAL FORCES ARE TO BE USED.

THE "SYMMETRY" OF OPPOSING NUCLEAR FORCES FORMS A FRAMEWORK FOR RESTRICTING WARS TO CONVENTIONAL FORCES, SCHLESINGER SAID.

TO INSURE THAT THESE CONFLICTS "TAKE PLACE AT A LOWER LEVEL," CONTINUED SCHLESINGER, THE NUCLEAR BALANCE MUST BE PERCEIVED NOT ONLY BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION, BUT ALSO BY "THIRD AUDIENCES - THE JAPANESE, EUROPEANS AND CHINESE."

SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS MAKE OFFICIAL THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN MORE THAN 10 YEARS IN THE U.S. DETERRENCE DOCTRINE - USUALLY LABELED "ASSURED DESTRUCTION."

UNDER THE DOCTRINE, U.S. NUCLEAR FORCES ARE SAID TO DETER A SOVIET ATTACK BY THEIR ABILITY TO ASSURE DESTRUCTION OF SOVIET CITIES AND INDUSTRY.

THIS DOCTRINE REMAINED UNDER THE FIRST STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS AGREEMENT WHICH PRESIDENT NIXON AND LEONID BREZHNEV SIGNED IN MOSCOW IN MAY 1972. ESSENTIALLY THAT AGREEMENT BALANCED SUPERIOR AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY -- NAMELY IN MULTIPLE NUCLEAR WARHEADS -- AGAINST THE SUPERIOR DESTRUCTIVE POWER AND NUMBERS OF SOVIET
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MISSILES. AGAINST THE BACKDROP, THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO SEEK A MORE EXTENSIVE AND MORE PERMANENT AGREEMENT WITHIN FIVE YEARS.

BUT YESTERDAY SCHLESINGER -- ENLARGING ON REMARKS MADE IN A PRESS CONFERENCE LAST NOV. 30 -- SUGGESTED THE SOVIET UNION IS NOW PROGRESSING SO RAPIDLY WITH SOPHISTICATED LAND-AND SEA-BASED BALLISTIC MISSILES SYSTEMS THAT

THE UNITED STATES MUST DEVELOP OTHER OPTIONS FOR
DETERRENCE.

THE UNITED STATES, THROUGH IMPROVED MISSILE GUIDANCE
SYSTEMS, HE SAID, IS NOW TURNING TO OTHER "TARGET SETS"

BESIDES SOVIET CITIES. DEFENSE OFFICIALS LATER EX-
PLAINED THAT SUCH TARGETS WERE OIL FIELDS, AIR FIELDS,
COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTERS, AND INDIVIDUAL SOVIET MISSILE
SILOS, ALTHOUGH SCHLESINGER HIMSELF REFUSED TO NAME THEM
PUBLICLY.

THE DEFENSE SECRETARY REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT THE
NEW STRATEGY WAS NOT AIMED AT ENTIRELY KNOCKING OUT SOVIET
MISSILE FORCES IN A "DISARMING FIRST STRIKE." BOTH THE
SOVIET AND THE U.S. FORCES, HE SAID, WERE NOW TOO ADVANCED
TO BE WIPED OUT IN SUCH A STRIKE.

NOR, CONTINUED SCHLESINGER, DOES THE NEW STRATEGY
INVOLVE DEPLOYMENT OF NEW MISSILE SYSTEMS OR AN INCREASE
IN THE NUMBER OF MULTIPLE NUCLEAR WARHEADS NOW RESTRICTED
ON LAND TO 550 OF THE 1,050 MINUTE MAN III INTERCONTI-
NENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEMS.

THE CURRENT NUCLEAR ARMS NEGOTIATIONS WOULD DETERMINE
THE SIZE OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR ARSENAL, HE SAID. THE
UNITED STATES COULD BEGIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON SUCH
NEW SYSTEMS AS THE CRUISE MISSILE LAUNCHED FROM ATTACK
SUBMARINES, BUT THESE NEED NOT BE DEPLOYED IF A FORMULA
FOR "ESSENTIAL EQUIVALANCY" OF NUCLEAR FORCES CAN BE
WORKED OUT WITH THE SOVIETS IN GENEVA.

IN THE MEANTIME, SAID SCHLESINGER, THE CHANGE TO
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"TARGET SETS" OUTSIDE SOVIET CITIES MUST SHOW THE RUSSIANS
THAT THE PRESENT U.S. NUCLEAR ARSENAL IS BEING DEPLOYED
TO COUNTER SOVIET ADVANCES.

THE ESSENTIAL POINT SCHLESINGER SAID, IS THAT BY
PRESENT PROJECTIONS THE SOVIET UNION BY 1980 WILL EQUAL
THE UNITED STATES IN CAPACITY TO HIT SELECTED TARGETS.
THAT WOULD MEAN, HE EXPLAINED, THAT THE RUSSIANS, WHILE
HAVING AN INVULNERABLE NUCLEAR STRIKE FORCE IN RESERVE TO
USE AGAINST AMERICAN CITIES, WOULD ALSO HAVE THE
SOPHISTICATION AND POWER TO STRIKE OTHER TARGETS.

AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT, SAID SCHLESINGER, MUST NOT
BE FORCED TO RESPOND TO SUCH A SOVIET ATTACK WITH THE SOLE
"SUICIDAL OPTION" OF DESTROYING SOVIET CITIES -- SUICIDAL

BECAUSE THE SOVIET NUCLEAR FORCES WOULD STILL EXIST AND
COULD DESTROY AMERICAN CITIES.

"IT IS OUR INTENTION," SAID SCHLESINGER "THAT THIS

NOT BE THE ONLY OPTION AND POSSIBLY NOT THE PRINCIPAL
OPTION OPEN TO THE NATIONAL COMMAND AUTHORITIES."
(END TEXT). RUSH

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